

I claim:

1. A method of decoding at least part of an auxiliary signal that is
steganographically encoded in a host signal, the auxiliary signal comprising a first message
5 and a second message modulated, respectively, with a corresponding first carrier signal and a
corresponding second carrier signal, the first carrier signal being at a first frequency and the
second carrier signal being at a relatively lower, second frequency, said method comprising:
selectively providing the host signal to a predetermined state, the predetermined state
corresponding with either the first frequency or the second frequency; and
10 at the predetermined state, obtaining either the first message or the second message
from the host image.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said selectively providing the host signal to a
predetermined state comprises filtering and sampling the host signal.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined state comprises a
predetermined image resolution.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the host signal comprises an image or video signal
20 and the predetermined image resolution comprises a relatively low resolution which still
includes the second carrier signal.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the filtering comprising low pass filtering and the sampling comprises down-sampling.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said obtaining comprises demodulating either the
5 first message or the second message from the image by multiplying the image or video signal at the predetermined state with a corresponding carrier signal.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining comprises demodulating either the first message or the second message from the host signal by multiplying the host signal at the
10 predetermined state with a corresponding carrier signal.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the host signal comprises an image, and the predetermined state comprises a relatively high resolution, and wherein said obtaining comprises high pass filtering the image.
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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first message and the second message comprise different messages.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first message and the second message
20 comprise the same message.

11. A method of encoding a first message and a second message in an image signal, the first message being detectable at a first image resolution and the second message being detectable at a second, different image resolution, said method comprising:

modulating the first message with a first carrier signal at a first frequency and

5 modulating the second message with a second carrier signal at a relatively lower second frequency; and

combining the modulated messages with the image to form a steganographically encoded signal in which the modulated first and second messages are generally imperceptible, but machine readable, respectively, at the first image resolution and the
10 second image resolution.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first message and the second message are different messages.

15 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the first message and the second message are the same message.